

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The November 19, 2007 Office Action indicated that Figures 1–5 and 8 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--.

Applicant has provided herewith two (2) "Replacement Sheets" for Figures 1–5. Regarding Figure 8, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection and characterization of the subject matter of the drawing. Rather, Figure 8 depicts an embodiment of Applicant's invention as shown in Figure 6 with a standard input voltage reduction means (80) coupled thereto. In particular, Applicant submits that the circuit depicted in Figure 8, which includes the input reduction means, is not known in the art. For example, Applicant suggests in the specification (see, e.g., paragraph [0035] of the published application (US 2007/0030617)) coupling such an input reduction means to an embodiment of Applicant's invention to allow reduction of the average value of the input voltage. Accordingly, it is clear that Figure 8 as a whole does not depict prior art.

REMARKS

Claims 1–10 are pending in the application. By this Response, Applicant is amending Claims 1–8 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 9 remains as previously presented.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

As discussed above, Applicant has amended Figures 1–5 to be designated by the legend --Prior Art--. These amendments are reflected in the two (2) Replacement Sheets submitted herewith.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

As discussed above, Applicant is amending page 3, lines 28–29, of the Specification. In particular, the portion should read “Fig. 8, shows another voltage converter according to an embodiment of the invention that comprises input voltage reduction means” (emphasis added). The previously pending statement indicating that Figure 8 depicted prior art was clearly a typographical error since it was contrary to the rest of the Specification as explained above with respect to the drawings. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been submitted by way of this amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The November 19, 2007 Office Action states that Claims 1–10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,751,139 to Jordan et al. (“Jordan”) in view of acknowledged prior art.

Amended Claim 1

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 1. For example, on page 6, lines 13-15 (paragraph [0033] of the published application), Applicant does not acknowledge that providing the inverted voltage and the non-inverted voltage of the one of the at least two non-inverting branches with substantially equal magnitude is known in the art. Rather, Applicant merely states that one skilled in the art would be enabled to implement the inventive concept described in the specification based on the specification without undue experimentation, specifically that the output voltage V_{inv} can

have a substantially equal magnitude as any one of the clamp voltages V_a , V_b or V_c depending on which of the non-inverting branches 12, 13 or 14 is activated.

Moreover, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to specifically clarify additional differences between the voltage converter of Claim 1 and the disclosure of Jordan. For instance, Jordan appears to disclose a power converter with multiple voltage outputs, some inverting and some non-inverting. The outputs, inverting and non-inverting, may assume various magnitudes without any correlation between inverting outputs and non-inverting outputs (see, e.g., col. 2, line 56 to col. 3, line 11).

In contrast, the voltage converter of independent Claim 1 includes the following elements (see also, page 6 of Applicant's specification):

1. One of the at least two non-inverting branches is activated;
2. The inverting branch has an opposite polarity and a substantially equal magnitude as the output voltage of the one non-inverting branch that is activated; and
3. The activation of a specific non-inverting branch determines the magnitude of the voltage for the inverting branch.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Jordan, even in view of the "acknowledged prior art" according to the Examiner, does not teach or suggest all the limitations of amended Claim 1 as required by M.P.E.P. § 2143.03. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests allowance of Claim 1.

Claims 2-10

Claims 2-10 depend from amended independent Claim 1 and are believed to be patentably distinguished over the cited art for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

NO DISCLAIMERS OR DISAVOWALS

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate

expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that the issues may be promptly resolved.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 3/19/2008

By: Christian A. Fox
Christian A. Fox
Registration No. 58,507
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(949) 760-0404